

Finally: Don then asked the students to go back through the selected stories and make notes in the appropriate places about the characters' thoughts, feelings, and actions. He continuously made the point that some of their responses would be found in print in the story, while others would be conclusions known to the reader without corroboration through printed facts. To underscore this point, he had the students list page numbers beside the things they could prove from the print; for the rest he required that they supply their own reasons.

He concluded by asking the students to get into groups with others who had selected the same story and to then discuss common and different points. Once that was done, students posted the images on the walls underneath the appropriate story title. He then invited everyone to move around the room and enjoy the display.

## Making the Connection

As Don continued to work with this concept, he periodically asked his students to use their journals as a place to jot down inferences they made about situations or people within a day's time period. He even challenged them to carry their journals with them as they moved through the halls at school, while they ate lunch, rode on the bus, and interacted with their friends and family at home. His goal was for his students to become very adept at drawing conclusions or inferences in life, just as he wanted them to do in fiction.

## Objectives Addressed

- 1.02 Explore expressive materials that are read, heard, and viewed by...  
creating an artistic interpretation...
- 1.03 Interact appropriately in group settings by...contributing relevant comments...
- 1.04 Reflect on learning experiences by...describing personal learning growth...
- 2.01 Explore informational materials that are read, heard, and/or viewed by...  
making connections to related..
- 4.02 Develop (with teacher assistance) and apply appropriate criteria to evaluate the quality  
of communication by...drawing conclusions based on evidence...
- 4.03 Recognize and develop a stance of a critic by...considering alternative points of view
- 5.01 Increase fluency, comprehension, and insight through a meaningful and comprehensive  
reading program by...reading literature and other selections...
- 5.02 Study the characteristics of literary genres (fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry)  
through...exploring what impact literary...